

I'm writing regarding the petition of Bell South to the FCC asking it to stop regulating broadband service. I believe this would be a HUGE mistake. I live in Sonoma County, California, where I receive world-class ISP service from a home-grown company started by graduates of our local community college. As the internet has matured, the owners of Sonoma Interconnect have nurtured their "baby" into a prized local resource. They've remained on friendly terms with the goliath SBC, but without the oversight of the FCC there would be no reason for companies like SBC to maintain a level playing field with companies such as Sonic.net.

When broadband was in its infancy, companies like sonic provided features such as static IP addressing while the telecommunications giants forced lame-duck protocols on their customers. Today, if I have a problem with my broadband service, there's someone at the office to take my call seven days a week, and that person is a local community member as well as competent and caring.

We need to foster and nurture companies like sonic, not let the telecommunications giants toss them aside. Please follow your charter and serve the interests of the American people, not just those of giant corporations.

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